

REMARKS

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 9-20 were allowed and claims 2-6 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, claims 1, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0180685 A1 ("Itakura et al.").

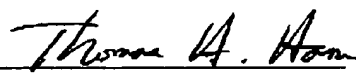
In response, Applicant has rewritten the "objected to" claim 5 in independent form by amending the independent claim 1 to include the limitations of the dependent claim 5. As a result, the dependent claim 5 has been canceled. Furthermore, the dependent claim 6 has been amended to maintain proper dependence.

Applicant also notes that the specification was objected to because of an incorrectly referenced structure. In response, Applicant has corrected the error as suggested in the Office Action. In addition, Applicant has also made additional changes to correct other minor informalities. Therefore, the paragraphs [0020], [0030] and [0040] on pages 5, 9, and 10, respectively, of the Specification have been amended.

In view of the claim amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims 1-4 and 6-8 are also in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
Oliver Dieter Landolt

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By: 
Thomas H. Ham
Registration No. 43,654
Telephone: (925) 249-1300